

Captain (S) James Bernard Foley, C.B.E., R.A.N.

IN the thirty-five years that he has been in the Royal Australian Navy, Captain (S) James Bernard Foley, C.B.E., R.A.N., the present Director of the Supply and Secretariat Branch and Administrative Assistant to the Second Naval Member, has seen considerable developments in the branch of the Service which he now directs.

Some indication of those developments is given in the (S) which now follows the rank of officers of that branch. It stands for "Supply and Secretariat," and replaces the prefix "Paymaster" which originally distinguished those commissioned to carry out the administrative side of ship organization: that prefix in itself perhaps suggesting the narrower limits within which such administration fell when the branch was younger.

In later years, and especially since the conclusion of the war of 1914-18, the branch has spread and grown into a bough, carrying much more weight than originally it did. The responsibilities of its officers have increased accordingly, and today their training calls for a high degree of specialization: administrative, secretarial, legal, accounting, and diplomatic.

The branch provides the complete secretariat afloat and in Naval Establishments ashore, including the secretaries on the personal staffs of Flag Officers, and the Captains' secretaries. In many of the responsibilities of a Flag Officer, his secretary is his right hand, called upon to counsel from his knowledge and experience in various circumstances that arise. As The King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions put it: "The Admiral's Secretary, in addition to his duties as personal secretary to the Admiral, and as head of the Secretariat, is the adviser on legal, commercial, and diplomatic questions."

An (S) officer's training is therefore comprehensive and complete. Whether he goes through the Naval College, or enters later as a Special Entry, his early Naval schooling is similar to that of the junior executive officer, with the same basic foundation. As does the young executive officer, he proceeds overseas and joins the training cruiser "Devonshire"; and it is not until he is promoted Acting Sub-Lieutenant that he, too, specialises—not in Navigation, Gunnery, or Engineering, but in the work of his chosen branch.

And today this specialization leads him on to the higher phases of the never-ending training of

the Navy, selected members of the branch, as in the case of the Executive Branch, now taking the Imperial Defence College Course, and Staff and War Courses.

With the enlarged activities and responsibilities of the branch, greater opportunities—not only for boys who enter the Navy at the age of thirteen through the Naval College, but also for those youths who enter when four years older as Special Entries—exist within it. As an example of this, the latest Naval Estimates allow for a Rear-Admiral (S) in the Australian Navy, which is a rank that has not hitherto existed here.

That the subject of this article has had considerable experience in the various activities of the branch—and especially in its higher secretarial duties—his Naval record shows.

James Bernard Foley was born at Ballarat, Vic., on the 24th June, 1896; the son of the late M. J. Foley, of Limerick, Ireland. When the R.A.N. was established, he was over age for entry into the Naval College, but, applying for Special Entry, was accepted soon after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, and entered the Navy as a Paymaster Midshipman at the old Naval Depot at Williamstown on the 1st March, 1915.

After a short spell at the Depot he was sent overseas and joined H.M.A.S. "Australia," then Flagship of the 2nd. Battle Cruiser Squadron with the Grand Fleet. He was for over two years in her before being appointed to the cruiser "Psyche" in the Bay of Bengal, remaining in her until the end of the war. Returning to Australia there followed a period of close on three years on the Staff of the R.A.N. College, Jervis Bay, after which he was appointed to the ship "Marguerite," carrying out general utility services with the Squadron.

From the "Marguerite" he was appointed to the Admiral's office in the Flagship—Rear-Admiral John Saumarez Dumaresq, C.B., C.V.O., was Flag Officer Commanding the Squadron then—and he remained there, except for a period on the staff of the Vice-Admiral Commanding the Special Service Squadron in "Hood," and on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, until his appointment as Secretary to Admiral Sir G. Francis Hyde, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., then Captain Hyde and Second Naval Member, and later, until his



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death in 1937. First Naval Member and Chief of the Naval Staff.

This appointment started Captain Foley on his thirteen years at Navy Office as Secretary to successive First Naval Members—Admiral Hyde, Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin, K.B.E., C.B., and Admiral Sir Guy Royle, K.C.B., C.M.G.—throughout the pre-war decade and the war years until 1944. In that year he went to London as Naval Liaison Officer at Australia House, remaining there until 1948 when, after taking the Senior Officers' War Course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, he returned to Australia to his present appointment.

As Secretary to the First Naval Member, he accompanied Admiral Hyde to the Naval Treaty Conferences in London in 1930 and 1933, and the Singapore Conference in 1933; and he was one of Admiral Colvin's Staff at the Pacific Defence Conference in Wellington just prior to the outbreak of the recent war. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1936, and the C.B.E. in 1941.

In 1921 Captain Foley married Jean, daughter of the late Charles Croaker; and is the father of one daughter, who has herself now married into the Navy, being the wife of Lieutenant Anthony Frederick Sallman, R.A.N.